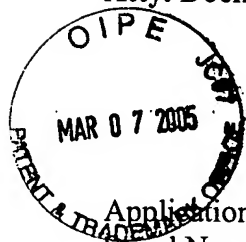


Atty. Docket No.: B0751/7034

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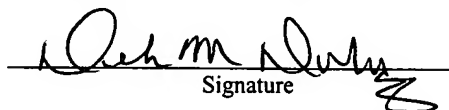
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Christopher T. Zirps *et al.* Examiner: Beverly Meindl Flanagan  
Serial No.: 10/656,557 Group Art Unit: 3739  
Filed: September 5, 2003 Conf. No.: 8184  
Title: ENDOSCOPIC ACCESSORY MOUNTING ADAPTOR

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any paper or fee referred to as being enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Post Office as First Class Mail on the date indicated in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Date

  
Signature

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Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY**

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 3, 2004 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are shown in the "Listing of the Claims" which begins on page 7 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks.